

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SP-02 SS-15 /048 W
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R 010340Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KABUL
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
SECSTATE WASHDC 9345

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6203

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PDIP, PINR, AF, IN
SUBJECT: AFGHANISTAN NAMES A NEW AMBASSADOR TO NEW DELHI

1. ON JULY 29 RADIO AFGHANISTAN ANNOUNCED THAT THE
DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN (DRA) HAD RECEIVED
AGREEMENT FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF ENGINEER PACHA GUL
WAFADAR AS AMBASSADOR TO INDIA.

2. THIS WILL BE PACHA GUL'S THIRD AMBASSADORIAL
ASSIGNMENT IN FOUR YEARS. HE WAS PREVIOUSLY POSTED
TO SOFIA (1974-1977) AND TO TRIPOLI (1977-1978). HE
IS A TRAINED ENGINEER AND FORMER AIR FORCE CAPTAIN,
WHO WAS EDUCATED IN THE SOVIET UNION AND WHO HAS A
RUSSIAN WIFE. PRIOR TO STARTING HIS CAREER AS AN
AMBASSADOR, HE SERVED BRIEFLY AS MINISTER OF FRONTIER
AFFAIRS IN MOHAMMAD DAOUD'S FIRST CABINET, TO WHICH
HE HAD BEEN NAMED AFTER TAKING A LEADING PART IN THE
COUP OF JULY, 1973, WHICH RETURNED DAOUD TO POWER.
CONSIDERED ONE OF THE GROUP OF LEFTISTS IN THAT
CABINET, HE WAS "EXILED" TO SOFIA AS AMBASSADOR
WITHIN TEN MONTHS, FOR REASONS WHICH WERE NEVER
SPELLED OUT. PACHA GUL IS IN HIS EARLY THIRTIES,
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AND SPEAKS PERSIAN, PASHTU, URDU, AND RUSSIAN.

3. COMMENT: IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE
REVOLUTION OF APRIL 27, PACHA GUL DESCRIBED HIM-
SELF IN A PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH THE AMERICAN
AMBASSADOR TO LIBYA AS A "PERSONAL FRIEND OF
PRESIDENT DAOUD", AND AS ONE "WHO WAS NOT AND

NEVER WOULD BE A COMMUNIST." EVIDENTLY, THESE STATEMENTS WERE MERE DISEMBLING, AS THE NEW REGIME WOULD NOT APPOINT AN INDIVIDUAL TOTALLY OUT OF SYMPATHY WITH THEIR OPINIONS. ALTHOUGH HIS EXACT POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS ARE NOT CLEAR, HIS ASSIGNMENT TO NEW DELHI DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE "EXILE" OF LEADING PARCHAMISTS TO FOREIGN CAPITALS.

4. PACHA GUL APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN LESS THAN SUCCESSFUL IN HIS PREVIOUS AMBASSADORIAL ASSIGNMENTS. THAT THE DRA WOULD SELECT HIM FOR THE PRESTIGIOUS AND IMPORTANT POST OF NEW DELHI IS SURPRISING, AND SUGGESTS THAT THE REGIME HAS NO WEALTH OF TALENT FROM WHICH TO DRAW IN MAKING ITS AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS. DUBS

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